

To: The Hon. Cecil F. Poole, Esq.
 Chairman, Section on Individual Rights & Responsibilities, A.B. A.
 c/o Jacobs, Sills & Coblenz
 555 California Street
 San Francisco, California

My committee -- the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties -- has been requested by the Mattachine Society of New York and the Gay Activist Alliances of both New York and Washington, D. C. to make representations on their behalf before the American Bar Association's Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities, of which you are chairman, at your forthcoming meeting in Washington on the 25th inst. I understand this is in furtherance of their discussions with you when they met with you in New Orleans last February. My committee has asked me to represent it before your section for this purpose, and I am therefore asking that you kindly place my name on your list of those scheduled to appear before you on the day indicated, 25 May.

Arthur C. Warner, co-chairman
 National Committee for Sexual
 Civil Liberties

To: The Hon. Cecil F. Poole, Esq.

sent 23 May 1972

The undersigned have been apprised of your response to the telegram sent you by Dr. Arthur C. Warner, co-chairman of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, whom we had requested to represent us at the forthcoming meeting in Washington of the Council of your Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities of the American Bar Association. The uncontroverted reports from those representatives of the homophile groups who were present in New Orleans in February was to the effect that the membership of your Section who were there present were strongly of the opinion that an opportunity should be provided for homophile representatives to be heard -- if not in New Orleans, then, at least, at your Washington meeting. Evidently you alone opposed such an appearance. Though you yourself made no actual commitment to place the question of homosexual civil rights on your agenda for the Washington meeting, your unwillingness to do so would appear to fly directly in the face of the overwhelming sense of your own membership as reflected at your New Orleans meeting and as expressed by them to our representatives who were there. It would also appear to reflect a gross indifference to the fundamental human rights of the second largest minority in this country. Representatives from several of the groups named below are planning to be in Washington at your forthcoming meeting, and we would expect that your own sense of fairness and equity will prevail upon you to alter your procedure or to expand your agenda so as to provide an opportunity for some of these representatives to be heard. Under the circumstances, we find your suggestion to Dr. Warner that he submit "written materials", which you would "distribute to council members for possible consideration and discussion at a later date" both meaningless and evasive. We feel certain that, after due reflection, you will realize that these important civil and human rights issues warrant an adequate presentation.

Donald E. Goodwin, President
 Mattachine Society, New York

Richard C. Wandel, President
 Gay Activist Alliance of New York

Joseph Scutiero, President
 Gay Activist Alliance of New Jersey

Ernest O. Reaugh, Chairman
 New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations

Dr. James Zais, President
 Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier
 Buffalo, New York

William B. Kelley, co-ordinator
 Homosexuals Organized for Political Education
 Chicago, Illinois

William Plath, President
 Society for Individual Rights
 San Francisco, California

Thomas Erwin, President
 Mattachine Mid-West
 Chicago, Illinois

John Maybauer, acting Pres.
 Chicago Gay Activists

Robert Johnson, President
 Gay Activist Alliance
 Washington, D. C.

Ronald C. Alheim
 Gay Liberation Front
 Albany, New York